

What was the Renaissance? Why Did the Renaissance Begin in Italy?



Renaissance 1350-1600 = Rebirth

- Economic & Intellectual Revival in Europe



Roman Ruins



Center of Trade with Asia



- Venice and Genoa
- Trade with Constantinople and Asia
- Asia Preserved works of the great Classical Thinkers
- Inventions: better maps, astrolabe, magnetic compass, galleon
- Peppercorns, nutmeg, mace, and cinnamon all came from lands to the east. Also from the east came precious gems and fine silk, a fabric especially sought after for women's clothing.

Rise of the Towns and Cities

Wealth shifts from Large Landowners
(Farms) to Merchants



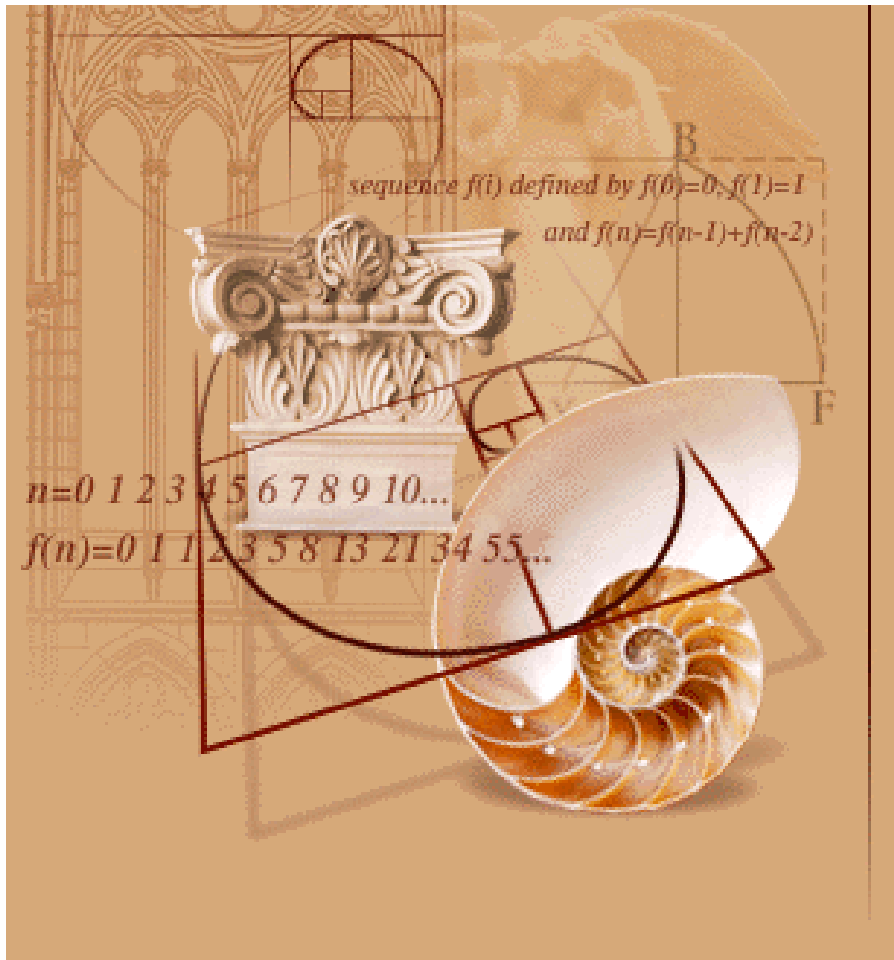
Rise of a Merchant Middle Class



The Moneylender and his Wife. Quentin Massys, 1514.

As the fortunes of merchants, bankers, and trades people improved, they had more than enough money to meet their basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. They began to desire larger, more luxurious homes, fine art for these residences, sumptuous clothing to show off their wealth in public, and exotic delicacies to eat. These desires of the middle class stimulated the economy.

Revival of Education



- The middle-class population also had leisure time to spend on education and entertainment. In fact, education was essential for many middle-class professions. Bankers and accountants needed to understand arithmetic. Those trading with other countries needed a knowledge of foreign currencies and languages. Reading was essential for anyone who needed to understand a contract

Economic Revival

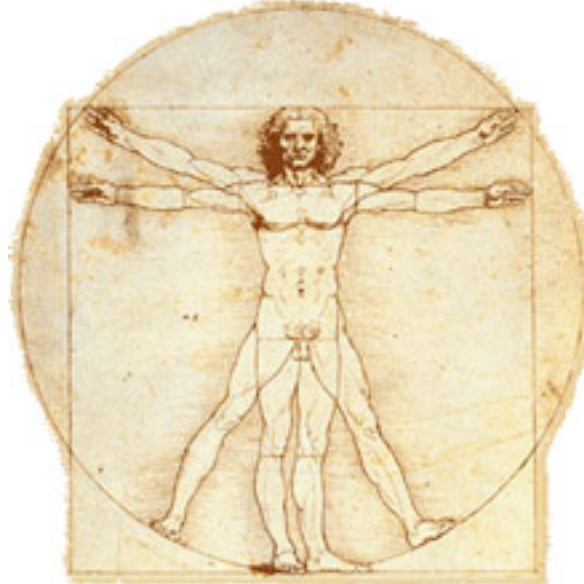
- Merchants are importing from the east
- More opportunities provided by banks and loans
- Banks are needed for:
- Provide (loans) credit
- Transfer money between countries



Gold Florin

Humanism

- An interest in Greece and Rome
- Seek fulfillment in Daily Life and in your Life on Earth
- Each individual has dignity and worth.
- You can improve your position in society and influence your future.
- Encouraged independent thinking. Be critical and use logic.



Humanists believed that wealth enabled them to do fine, noble deeds, that good citizens needed a good, well-rounded education (such as that advocated by the Greeks and Romans), and that moral and ethical issues were related more to secular society than to spiritual concerns.

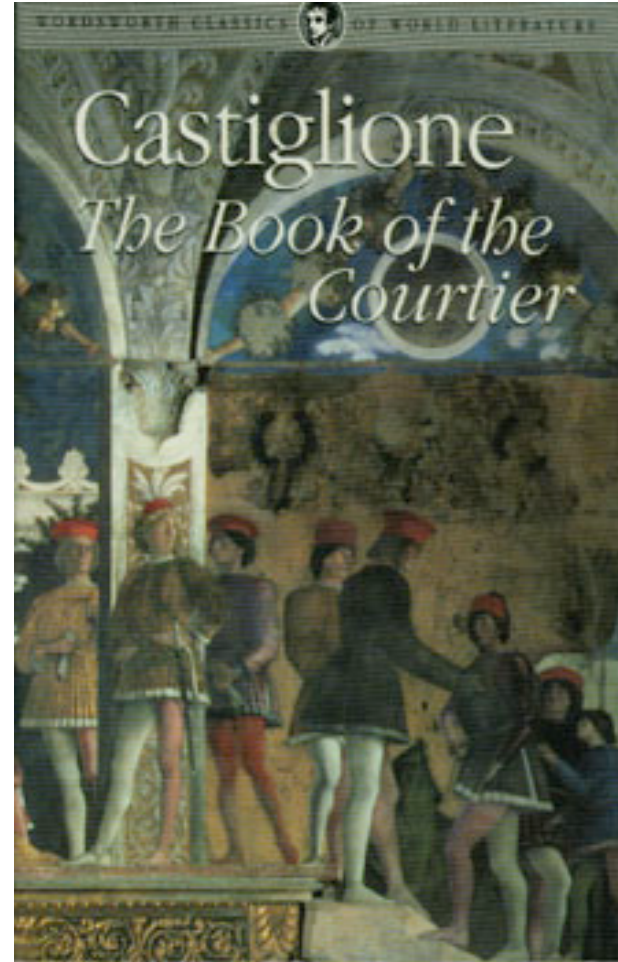
Patrons of The Arts



- Wealthy Humanist Merchants
- To ease conscious as “sinful bankers” merchants built churches and commissioned artists
- Opened Schools
- Lorenzo Medici adopted Michealangelo



Southern Renaissance



- Strong pagan influence by Greek philosophers like Plato
- Baldassare Castiglione (1478–1529), whose Book of the Courtier affectionately summed up humanistic thought.

Northern Renaissance

Christian Humanism

“a philosophy advocating the self-fulfillment of man within the framework of Christian principles.”

More Conservative

- More Medieval
- More Religious
- One of the greatest scholars of his time
- Translated classic texts from Greek and Latin.
- Called for reform in the Church through his various satirical works.
- A dedicated Christian who advocated reform within the Church.



Desiderius Erasmus